# EXHIBIT 1

SOUTHERN DISTRICT (		
ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFO	PRCEMENT CORP.,	- x :
	Plaintiff,	: Civil Action No.:
- against -		NOTICE OF REMOVAL
JERRI THOMAS JONES		: (New York Supreme Court : County of New York,
	Defendant.	Index No. 650946/2017)
		- X

INITED OTATEC DICTRICT COLDT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Jerri Thomas Jones ("Ms. Jones"), by and through her counsel, Proskauer Rose LLP, respectfully notices removal of this action from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441, and 1446. As grounds for removal, defendant respectfully states:

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. On March 3, 2017, Plaintiff Artists Rights Enforcement Corp. ("AREC") sent by mail and affixed on the front door of Ms. Jones's residence in Texas, a Summons with Notice, naming Ms. Jones as the sole defendant, and summoning Ms. Jones to appear in the Supreme Court for the State of New York, County of New York. A copy of the Summons with Notice is attached as Exhibit A. On April 3, 2017, Ms. Jones filed a Demand for Complaint, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B.
- 2. On April 11, 2017, AREC filed a Summons and Complaint in the Supreme Court for the State of New York, County of New York, titled *Artists Rights Enforcement Corp. v. Jerri Thomas Jones and Broadcast Music, Inc.*, Index No. 650946/2017 ("State Court Action"). With Ms. Jones, AREC added Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") as a defendant in the State Court Action.

The Summons and Complaint ("Complt.") are attached as Exhibit C.

- 3. In the Complaint, AREC contends that Ms. Jones is subject to a contract AREC entered into with Ms. Jones's aunt, Ms. Joan Marie Johnson, in 1984 (the "Contract"). The Contract provided that AREC was to act on behalf of Ms. Johnson in providing certain royalty collection services. AREC claims that Ms. Johnson agreed to pay AREC "a contingent fee of fifty percent of the ongoing royalties for which Artists Rights' efforts were responsible." Complt. ¶ 5. The Complaint alleges that Ms. Johnson died testate in Louisiana in October 2016, and bequeathed to Ms. Jones royalties stemming from Ms. Johnson's work as a member of the music group The Dixie Cups. Complt. ¶¶ 2, 12-13. AREC's Complaint noted that Ms. Jones "has purported to terminate the Contract." Complt. ¶ 14. AREC seeks a declaratory judgment that Ms. Jones must continue to pay AREC its claimed fee fifty percent of all "ongoing royalties for which Artists Rights' efforts were responsible."
- 4. On April 25, 2017, AREC discontinued its action against BMI, leaving Ms. Jones as the sole defendant. Attached as <a href="Exhibit D">Exhibit D</a> is the Stipulation of Discontinuance Without Prejudice.

#### **GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL**

5. Ms. Jones removes this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). The discontinuance of AREC's action against BMI created complete diversity of citizenship between the parties. Plaintiff AREC is a New York corporation with its principal office in New York County. Complt. ¶ 1. Defendant Ms. Jones is a citizen and resident of Texas. Complt. ¶ 2. The value of the object of litigation – AREC's claimed fee of fifty-percent of Ms. Jones's ongoing royalties – exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. This Court thus has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1).

Case 62183-ev1-010031-0181082411/16/ht 10-1culFilledt 01/276/4180578494.4 of 25 de 25 de 26 de 27 de 2

6. This Court is the district court embracing the Supreme Court for the State of New

York, County of New York and, therefore, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

1441(a).

7. The date of filing of this Notice of Removal is within 30 days of Ms. Jones's

receipt of the Stipulation of Discontinuance creating complete diversity, and therefore, this

Notice of Removal is being filed in a timely manner pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(3).

8. Promptly after filing this Notice of Removal, a true copy of this Notice will be

given to plaintiff and filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New

York, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

9. By filing this Notice of Removal, Ms. Jones does not waive any defenses which

may be available to her, including, without limitation, lack of personal jurisdiction, improper

venue, insufficiency of process, failure to state a claim, and any other procedural or substantive

defenses available under state or federal law. Nor does Ms. Jones waive any rights to appeal.

WHEREFORE, Ms. Jones respectfully prays that this action proceed as a matter properly

removed to this Court.

Dated: May 1, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sandra A. Crawshaw Sparks

Sandra A. Crawshaw Sparks

David A. Munkittrick

Russell L. Kostelak

PROSKAUER ROSE LLP

Eleven Times Square

New York, New York 10036

212-969-3000

Attorneys for Defendant Jerri Thomas Jones

3

To: Attorney for Plaintiff

Ira G. Greenberg LOCKE LORD LLP 200 Vesey Street, Suite 2001 New York, NY 10281 (212) 415-8600

Attorney for Plaintiff
Artists Rights Enforcement Corp.

## **EXHIBIT A**

Case 6:1/39-c/v-00003:1030000:u/nhent010-dunFieled 101/26/168/ 05:4006/1770f 1250fea@elf05#: 14 YORK COUNTY CLERK 02/23/2017 04:24 INDEX NO. 650946/2017 PM NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/23/2017 Date Delivered Time Delivered SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK Delivered By COUNTY OF New York ID# 50410955 ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT CORP. **SUMMONS WITH NOTICE** Plaintiff(s), Index No.: 650946/2017 - VS -Date Index No. Purchased JERRI THOMAS JONES February 23, 2017 Defendant(s). To the Person(s) Named as Defendant(s) Above: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear in this action by serving a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff(s) at the address set forth below within 20 days after the service of this Summons (not counting the day of service itself), or within 30 days after service is complete if the summons is not delivered personally to you within the State of New York. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT should you fail to answer or appear, a judgment will be entered against you by default for the relief demanded below. Dated: February 23, , 2017 Signature Ira G. Greenberg Print name Address and Phone Number: Locke Lord LLP 200 Vesey Street, Suite 200 New York, NY 10281 (212) 415 - 8600 Defendant's Address: 710 Ash Street, Longview, TX 75605 Notice: The nature of this action is: Enforce contract with defendant's decedent The relief sought is: Declaratory judgment

Case 6:48-cv-0003103D60:1/mentDo1unFiled101/26/168 (Psage/B7of 25cPage/D5#: 15 FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 02/23/2017 04:24 PM

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/23/2017

	N/	uld Defendant(s) fail to appear A with interest fro	herein, judgm m the date of	ent will be entered by N/A	default for the and the costs of
basis of t	/enu	ue: Plaintiff(s) designate(s) Ned designation is (check one):	ew York	County as the place	of trial. The
	X	Plaintiff(s) reside in New York	County	<b>/</b> .	
		Defendant(s) reside in	Cou	unty.	
		Other (see CPLR Article 5):			

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Artists Rights Enforcement	Corp.		
-against- Jerri Thomas Jones	Plaintiff/Petitioner,	Index No	650946/2017
	Defendant/Respondent.		

### NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the matter captioned above has been commenced as an electronically filed case in the New York State Courts Electronic Filing System ("NYSCEF") as required by CPLR § 2111 and Uniform Rule § 202.5-bb (mandatory electronic filing). This notice is being served as required by that rule.

NYSCEF is designed for the electronic filing of documents with the County Clerk and the court and for the electronic service of those documents, court documents, and court notices upon counsel and unrepresented litigants who have consented to electronic filing.

Electronic filing offers significant benefits for attorneys and litigants, permitting papers to be filed with the County Clerk and the court and served on other parties simply, conveniently, and quickly. NYSCEF case documents are filed with the County Clerk and the court by filing on the NYSCEF Website, which can be done at any time of the day or night on any day of the week. The documents are served automatically on all consenting e-filers as soon as the document is uploaded to the website, which sends out an immediate email notification of the filing.

The NYSCEF System charges no fees for filing, serving, or viewing the electronic case record, nor does it charge any fees to print any filed documents. Normal filing fees must be paid, but this can be done on-line.

Parties represented by an attorney: An attorney representing a party who is served with this notice must either: 1) immediately record his or her representation within the e-filed matter on the NYSCEF site; or 2) file the Notice of Opt-Out form with the clerk of the court where this action is pending. Exemptions from mandatory e-filing are limited to attorneys who certify in good faith that they lack the computer hardware and/or scanner and/or internet connection or that they lack (along with all employees subject to their direction) the operational knowledge to comply with e-filing requirements. [Section 202.5-bb(e)]

Parties not represented by an attorney: Unrepresented litigants are exempt from efiling. They can serve and file documents in paper form and must be served with documents in paper form. However, an unrepresented litigant may participate in efiling.

For information on how to participate in e-filing, unrepresented litigants should contact the appropriate clerk in the court where the action was filed or visit <a href="www.nycourts.gov/efileunrepresented">www.nycourts.gov/efileunrepresented</a>. Unrepresented litigants also are encouraged to visit <a href="www.nycourthelp.gov">www.nycourthelp.gov</a> or contact the Help Center in the court where the action was filed. An unrepresented litigant who consents to e-filing may cease participation at any time. However, the other parties may continue to e-file their court documents in the case.

For additional information about electronic filing and to create a NYSCEF account, visit the NYSCEF website at <a href="www.nycourts.gov/efile">www.nycourts.gov/efile</a> or contact the NYSCEF Resource Center (phone: 646-386-3033; e-mail: <a href="mailto:efile@nycourts.gov">efile@nycourts.gov</a>).

Dated	: 02/23/2017	
Signat	Jassenhy uje	
IRA G Name	GREENBERG	
	Lord LLP	
Firm N	ame	
200 Ve	esey Street, suite 2001, 20th floo	or
Addres		
-	ORK, NY 10281	
City, S	tate, and Zip	
212-30	8-4411	
Phone		
ira.gree	enberg@lockelord.com	
E-Mail		
To:	Jerri Thomas Jones	
	710 Ash Street	_
	Longview, TX 75605	

9/3/15

### EXHIBIT B

FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 04/03/2017 09:14 AM INDEX NO. 650946/2017 NYSCEF DOC. 16039 6218601-00031-031031-0310601-110601-1111601-111601-11601-

SUPREME COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK	ζ	OR	K	
ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFO		- X		
	Plaintiff,	:		
- against -		:	Index No.	650946/2017
JERRI THOMAS JONES,		:		
	Defendant.	:		
		- X		

#### **DEMAND FOR COMPLAINT**

Defendant Jerri Thomas Jones, by and through her attorneys Proskauer Rose LLP, hereby demands, pursuant to CPLR 3012(b), that a copy of the Complaint in the above entitled action be served upon Defendant's attorneys in accordance with all applicable Court rules.

This Demand for Complaint does not constitute an appearance and Defendant does not waive, and specifically preserves, Defendant's right to assert any and all defenses in this matter, including but not limited to lack of personal jurisdiction, lack of service, and all other jurisdictional defenses.

Dated: New York, New York April 3, 2017

#### PROSKAUER ROSE LLP

/s/ Sandra A. Crawshaw Sparks

Sandra A. Crawshaw Sparks David A. Munkittrick Eleven Times Square New York, New York 10036 212.969.3000 scrawshaw@proskauer.com dmunkittrick@proskauer.com Attorneys for Defendant FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 04/03/2017 09:14 AM

INDEX NO. 650946/2017

NYSCEF DOC. 16259 6238-621-00031-0310624/16/11 04124/11 04126/11

To: Ira G. Greenberg Locke Lord LLP 200 Vesey Street, Suite 200 New York, NY 10281 (212) 415-8600

### EXHIBIT C

INDEX NO. 650946/2017

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT CORP.,

Plaintiff(x)

against

JERRI THOMAS JONES and BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.,

Defendant(s)

Index No. 650946/17
Date purchased Feb. 23, 2017

Plaintiff(s) designate(s)

New York

County as the place of trial.

The basis of the venue is plaintiffs principal offices.

SUPPLEMENTAL

Summons

Plaintiff(x) reside(s) at 1530 Broadway, New York, NY

County of New York

To the above named Defendant(s) BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.

your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

LOCKE LORD LLP

Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

Dated, April 11, 2017

Defendant's address:

7 World Trade Center 250 Greenwich Street New York, NY 10007 Office and Post Office Address 200 Vesey Street, Suite 2001 New York, NY 10281

INDEX NO. 650946/2017

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ndex No. 650946/17 FUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NEW YORK	ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT CORP.,	Plaintiff(x) against	ERRI THOMAS JONES and SROADCAST MUSIC, INC.,	Defendanı(s)	SUPPLEMENTAL SUITHIUITS ACTION NOT BASED UPON A CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION	LOCKE LORD LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(x)	Office, Post Office Address and Tel. No. 200 Vesey Street, Suite 2001 New York, NY 10281 (212) 415-8600			

Ira G. Greenberg
LOCKE LORD LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
200 Vesey Street, suite 2001
New York, NY 10281
(212) 415-8600
Ira.greenberg@lockelord.com

SUPREME COUR COUNTY OF NE	RT OF THE STATE OF NEW W YORK	YORK
	*************	X
ARTISTS RIGHT	S ENFORCEMENT CORP.,	
	Plaintiff,	Index No. 650946/17
versus		
JERRI THOMAS MUSIC, INC.,	JONES and BROADCAST	COMPLAINT
1110010, 1110.,	Defendants.	
		X

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff Artists Rights Enforcement Corp. is a New York corporation with its principal office in this county. It is engaged in the business of working on behalf of music composers and recording artists to obtain royalties to which they are entitled.
- 2. On information and belief, defendant Jerri Thomas Jones is a resident of Texas and is the heir of and successor in interest to Joan Marie Johnson, one of the three members of the recording group the Dixie Cups.
- 3. On information and belief, defendant Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") is a New York corporation with its principal office in this county. It is a performing rights organization. It collects license fees on behalf of songwriters, composers, and music

publishers and distributes them as royalties to its members whose works have been performed. On information and belief, Ms. Johnson was a BMI member.

- 4. Ms. Johnson entered into a contract with Artists Rights in New York in 1984. At the time of the contract, she was not collecting royalties either for the use of master recordings on which she, as part of the Dixie Cups, performed or for songs that she had written.
- 5. Pursuant to that contract, a copy of which is exhibit A, by which Artists Rights was to obtain those royalties for Ms. Johnson in consideration of a contingent fee of fifty percent of the ongoing royalties for which Artists Rights' efforts were responsible.
- 6. The contract further empowers Artists Rights to collect the royalties from those contractually obligated to Ms. Johnson
  - 7. Artists Rights fully performed under the agreement.
- 8. As a result of its efforts, Sun Entertainment began to pay royalties on the Dixie Cups' master recordings, including their major hits <u>Chapel of Love</u> and <u>Iko</u>.
- 9. In addition, as a result of its efforts, BMG Rights Management, EMI Music Publishing as successor in interest to Windswept Pacific Entertainment, and BMI began to pay royalties on Ms. Johnson's compositions, including the major hit <u>lko lko</u>.
- 10. Artists Rights monitored the payors' compliance with the recording and songwriter's agreements, collected the royalties, deducted its contractual share, and paid the remainder to Ms. Johnson, all in accordance with their contract.

- 11. Ms. Johnson never complained about Artists Rights' performance of its contractual obligations for her or objected to Artists Rights' deducting and retaining its fee through the years.
- 12. On information and belief, Ms. Johnson died testate in Louisiana on or about October 3, 2016.
- 13. On information and belief, the Louisiana court of competent jurisdiction probated Ms. Johnson's will, as a result of which her rights under the songwriter's and recording contracts described above devolved upon Ms. Jones.
- 14. Through counsel, Ms. Jones has purported to terminate the contract between Ms. Johnson and Artists Rights and has maintained that Artists Rights, despite having faithfully performed its duties until now, has no further right to collect the royalties described above, to retain its fee, or to pay and account to Ms. Jones.
- 15. Some of the entities named above that until now have been making payment to Artists Rights have ceased doing so until a court adjudicates the obligations of Ms. Jones to Artists Rights.
- 16. As a consequence, there is a justiciable controversy between Artists Rights and Ms. Jones such that this Court should declare their respective rights.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- 17. Artists Rights realleges paragraphs 1-15 of this complaint.
- 18. As a result of Ms. Jones' actions, BMI has told Artists Rights that it will begin to pay Ms. Johnson's share to Ms. Jones directly, rather than to pay it to Artists Rights in accordance with the contract between Artists Rights and Ms. Jones.

- 19. If this Court should hold in Artists Rights' favor on the first cause of action, on information and belief it would have substantial difficulties in recovering its fees from Ms. Jones.
- 20. As a consequence, there is a justiciable controversy between Artists Rights and BMI such that this Court should declare their respective rights.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Artists Rights Enforcement Corp. prays for judgment of defendants Jerri Thomas Jones and Broadcast Music, Inc.:

- (a) declaring that Artists Rights is entitled to its contractual fee of fifty percent of money recovered from Sun Entertainment or its successors or assigns on account of the stream of recording royalties originally payable to Ms. Johnson;
- (b) declaring that Artists Rights is entitled to its contractual fee of fifty percent of money recovered from BMG Rights Management, EMI Music Publishing as successor in interest to Windswept Pacific Entertainment, or Broadcast Music, Inc. and any of their successors or assigns on account of the stream of songwriter's royalties originally payable to Ms. Johnson;
- (c) declaring that Broadcast Music, Inc. is required to pay the royalties that are earned by Ms. Jones as successor to Ms. Johnson directly to Artists Rights;
- (d) awarding Artists Rights such further or alternative relief to which it may be entitled, together with

(e) the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, NY April 11, 2017

Ira G. Greenberg
LOCKE LORD LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
200 Vesey Street, suite 2001
New York, NY 10281
(212) 415-8600
Ira.greenberg@lockelord.com

TO:

Sandra A. Crawhaw Sparks
David A. Munkittrick
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
Attorneys for Defendant
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(212) 969-3000
scrawshaw@proskauer.com
dmunkittrick@proskauer.com

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#### AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF NEW YORK )
: ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

IRA G. GREENBERG, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to this action. On the 11th day of April, 2017, I served a true copy of the attached supplemental summons and complaint upon:

Sandraw A. Crawhaw Sparks, Esq. David A. Munkittrick PROSKAUER ROSE LLP Attorneys for Defendant 11 Times Square New York, NY 10036

the address designated for that purpose, by depositing a true and exact copy of same, enclosed in a post-paid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository of the United States Postal Service.

IRA G. GREENBERG

Sworn to before me this 11th day of April, 2017

Notary Public

ELLEN RANDY SOMMER
Notary Public, Hade of Heav York
No. 01S04910416
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires April 26, 2018

AM 66074164.1

### EXHIBIT D

Ira G. Greenberg
LOCKE LORD LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
200 Vesey Street, suite 2001
New York, NY 10281
(212) 415-8600
Ira.greenberg@lockelord.com

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X

ARTISTS RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT CORP.,

Plaintiff,

Index No. 650946/17

versus

JERRI THOMAS JONES and BROADCAST MUSIC, INC.,

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

STIPULATION OF DISCONTINUANCE

Defendants.

WE STIPULATE:

1. Defendant Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI"): (a) shall hold all royalties that are in, or shall come into, its possession that are the subject of the litigation against plaintiff Artists Rights Enforcement Corp. ("AREC") and defendant Jerri Thomas Jones until the earlier of (i) the resolution of the action as between AREC and Ms. Jones by settlement or final, non-appealable judgment and (ii) a contrary order of the Court, and (b) shall pay all such accrued and future royalties in accordance with any such final non-appealable judgment or settlement.

AM 66080941.1

2. The action as between AREC and BMI only is discontinued without prejudice. AREC reserves its right to reinstate its claims against BMI if BMI fails to abide by paragraph 1 of this stipulation. All statutes of limitations and other like doctrines of repose, such as laches, are tolled from this date until such time, if any, that AREC reinstates its claims against BMI.

Dated: New York, NY April 13, 2017

Ira G. Greenberg
LOCKE LORD LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
200 Vesey Street, suite 2001
New York, NY 10281

(212) 415-8600

Ira.greenberg@lockelord.com

RICHARD A. GARZA

Attorney for Defendant Broadcast Music, Inc.

7 World Trade Center New York, NY 10007

(212) 220-3000 rgarza@bmi.com

AM 66080941.1